

In the Matter of)
)
 Elimination of Main Studio Rule) MB Docket No. 17-106
)

L.M.N.O.C. Broadcasting, L.L.C., by its undersigned counsel hereby submits these comments in response to the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (FCC 17-59, released May 18, 2017) in the above captioned proceeding. L.M.N.O.C. fully supports the proposal to eliminate the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) rule that requires each AM, FM, and television broadcast station to maintain a main studio located in or near its community of license.¹

2. When the main studio rule was originally conceived local access to the main studio was designed to facilitate input from community members as well as the station's participation in community activities.³ The Commission subsequently held that a main

³ See, e.g., *Applications of the Tribune Company, Tampa, Florida, et al.*, 19 FCC 100, 148 (1954) (“The accessibility of the broadcast station’s main studio may well determine in large part the extent to which the station (a) can participate and be an integral part of community activities, and (b) can enable members of the public to

studio must have a “meaningful management and staff presence” to fulfill the main studio’s function⁴, which at a minimum requires “management and staff presence on a full-time basis during normal business hours.”⁵ In addition, the Commission implemented a program origination capability requirement⁶ pursuant to which broadcasters are required under Commission precedent to “equip the main studio with production and transmission facilities” and to ensure that the main studio has “continuous program transmission capability.”⁷ All of these main studio requirements are outdated, anachronistic and a considerable unnecessary economic burden on broadcasters, particularly those operating in smaller markets such as Taos.

3. Today, as the Commission has noted, the widespread availability of electronic communication enables stations to participate in their communities of license, and members of the community to contact broadcast radio and television stations, without the physical presence of a local broadcast studio. In addition, because the Commission has adopted online public inspection file requirements for AM, FM, and television broadcast stations, community members no longer need to visit a station’s main studio to access its public inspection file. Simply stated, technological innovations have rendered a local studio unnecessary as a means for viewers and listeners to communicate with or access their local stations.

participate in live programs and present complaints or suggestions to the stations.”).

⁴ See *Amendment of Sections 73.1125 and 73.1130 of the Commission’s Rules, the Main Studio and Program Origination Rules for Radio and Television Broadcast Stations*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 3 FCC Rcd 5024, 5026, para. 24 (1988) (1988 *Main Studio and Program Origination Reconsideration Order*).

⁵ *Application for Review of Jones Eastern of the Outer Banks, Inc. Licensee, Radio Station WRSF(FM) Columbia, North Carolina*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 6 FCC Rcd 3615, 3616, n.2 (1991).

⁶ 1988 *Main Studio and Program Origination Reconsideration Order*, 3 FCC Rcd at 5026, para. 24.

⁷ See *id.*; see also *University of San Francisco (Assignor) and Classical Public Radio Network LLC (Assignee), Application for Consent to Assignment of License Station KOSC(FM), San Francisco, CA*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 30 FCC Rcd 10530, 10533-34, para. 6 (2015).

Wherefore, The L.M.N.O.C. respectfully supports the Commission proposal to eliminate the rule that requires each AM, FM, and television broadcast station to maintain a main studio located in or near its community of license.

Respectfully submitted,

L.M.N.O.C. Broadcasting L.L.C.

Jeffrey D. Southmayd

By: _____
Jeffrey D. Southmayd

Its Attorney

Date: June 29, 2017